(Rs. in crore)

Year	Disbursements
2002-03	33921.05
2003-04	42210.77
2004-05 (up to September, 2004)	31011.50

However, the outstanding advances to agriculture sector by PSBs and Private Sector Banks indicating percentage to Net Bank Credit (NBC) for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto September, 2004) are as under:-

As on the last reporting Friday of	March 2003	March 2004 (Provisional)	September, 2004 (Provisional)
Public Sector Banks*	70501.73 (14.53%)	86187 (15.4%)	93560 (15.34%)
Private Sector Banks*	9924.19 (11.95%)	17652 (12.31%)	12722 (9.91%)

* Indirect agriculture is reckoned only upto 4.5% of NBC.

(b) Consequent to the announcement made in the Mid-term Review of the Credit Policy of the Reserve Bank of India for the year 2004-05, the domestic banks have been advised to make efforts to increase their disbursements to small and marginal farmers to 40 per cent of their direct advances under SACP by March, 2007. Thus the question of achieving 40% norm does not arise at this stage.

Charging of higher rate of interest from SSI sector

†3449. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a relatively higher rate of interest is being charged by the commercial banks from the small scale industry sector while disbursing them loans as compared to the big industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the commercial banks are complying with the guidelines prepared by the Reserve Bank of India while sanctioning loans to the small scale industries;

(d) if not, whether they would be compelled to follow the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons for charging a relatively higher rate of interest from the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) As per extant interest rate directives, for loans up to Rs. 2 lakh it should not exceed the respective Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of individual bank. Above Rs. 2 lakh, banks have been granted discretion to fix their interest rate on advances.

Reserve Bank of India has initiated following steps to give the benefits of softer interest rate;

(i) Banks have been advised to adopt the interest rate band of 2 percent above and below its PLR for secured advances.

(ii) Banks have been advised to set the interest rate on advances keeping in view prevailing general southward movement in interest rates.

(iii) Banks have also been advised to fix at least 3 slabs of rate of interest for loans up to Rs. 50,000; between Rs. 50,000 & Rs. 2 lakh and above Rs. 2 lakh.

All the public sector banks have implemented the above instructions.

Committee to look into cost of obtaining MAPIN

3450. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have constituted a Committee to look into the coverage and cost of obtaining Market Participants and investors Identification Number (MAPIN) for the market participants and investors;

(b) if so, what is the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;